

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ECHO HELD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE OLD VFW HALL, 210 W. BRIDGE, ECHO, OREGON.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Jeanie Hampton, Robert Harris, Janie Enright, Jerry Gaunt. Gayle Yoder, Karl Jensen.

ABSENT: Lou Nakapalau,

STAFF/CITY CONTRACTORS PRESENT: Diane Berry, City Administrator-Recorder, Trevor Morris, Public Works, Police Chief Bryon Zumwalt.

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam, Dana & Don Reese, Natalie Lapp, Alvin Umphres, Kent & Laura Madison, Richard Yoder, Lolly Anderson, Garrett Wiggins, Brandi George, Jade McDowell, East Oregonian.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jeanie Hampton lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance and the meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Janie Enright moved and Jerry Gaunt seconded the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Vote: all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Pam Reese, owner of Buttercreek Coffeehouse and a rural Echo resident, read a statement criticizing the council and administration and calling the council disorganized and unprepared. She is not happy with their response regarding Lou Nakapalau's Facebook dialogue with filmmaker Joe Wilson. She said the council did not provide a politically welcoming atmosphere and felt they should respond to those speaking at the meetings, such as herself. She asked for Lou Nakapalau's resignation. She commented about city staff boycotting her business: "Dana and I are being shunned by the folks at city hall for speaking out against hate speech." She repeated a statement made on a Tri-Cities TV Station that all the flowers and hanging basket cannot hide the ugliness in the community. She also criticized the apology issued by the city and posted on Facebook and provided the East Oregonian as a "quasi-apology."

Brandi Cox George, owner of Echo Station and a Hermiston resident, spoke to the same issue. "I believe in second chances and saw the apology Nakapalau issued on the Kumu Hina Facebook page, where the Wilson/Nakapalau original dialogue took place. However she feels Nakapalau has not "learned his lesson" regarding Facebook posts and she found another "horrible" comment by Lou Nakapalau on Hermiston classified, Friday 9:16 a.m. regarding someone accused of rape or sexual assault who hasn't been convicted. Nakapalau commented that he would provide the rope to hang him, or words to that effect. George was appalled by this second post and said she was also asking him to resign from the council.

Council Rules and Ethics: Berry provided in the council packets a sample Council Ethics Code, part of which is from the state code. She also provided a sample council rules and procedures document. These can be combined or adopted separately. They should be adopted by resolution. Berry explained that there is not much the council can do to another council member who doesn't abide by the rules other than a public statement or motion of condemnation or no confidence. A sample Social Media policy was also provided. All three are being reviewed by the city attorney. The council can take action against employees, possibly even firing them. Since council members are elected, voters can remove them through a recall. Berry explained that this would mean gathering enough signatures from registered voters living within the city limits to get the recall on the ballot. The number of signatures needed is based on a percentage of the registered voters in the city who voted on the last governor's election. The Secretary of State's office would provide this information. Then the city would have to cover the cost of the election, if enough signatures are obtained. A majority of Echo City voters would have to vote in favor of the recall. She cautioned that the council should not be involved in a recall effort. They would have the right individually to sign such a petition, but should not be endorsing or moving to suggest such an action.

The mayor asked for discussion on the documents and read from the council rules and procedures. She said she would like stronger language regarding the section on avoiding side conversations or asking for input from the audience. She asked the council to do homework and look through the policies before the next meeting. Jerry Gaunt moved and Robert Harris seconded a motion to table the rules & ethics. Vote: all ayes; Berry will obtain attorney comments and suggestions in the interim.

Social Media Policy: The Mayor read sections of the proposed code. Harris moved and Enright seconded a motion to send the resolution for the Social Media Policy to the attorney with the section on the council left blank and for the attorney to provide options for this section. Vote: all ayes.

Ordinance 375-17 System Development Charges: Berry reported that the cost for doing the rate study/system analysis that would allow us to come up with the system development charges allowed in the ordinance are \$15,000 each for water and sewer. There is money in the sewer fund for this, but not a line item in the Water Fund. The engineer would prepare this. He is looking to see if there are any grants that might cover some or all of the studies. The rate studies calculate the cost for the historical development of the system that rate payers have financed and new developments are then required to pay a portion of this historical cost which can be used to improve or extend the life of the systems. Kent Madison asked about whether a new study would be required to assess and add the cost of future

system development, such as any improvements he might add to water and sewer. Berry said she thought the methodology discussed in the code would allow new numbers to be plugged in without having to do new plans or rate studies. She said she knows Stanfield did theirs years ago and are still using it and haven't had to redo it every few years. She will discuss this with the attorney and engineer. Karl Jensen asked if the sewer funds would impact the system upgrades. She said the \$15,000 would come from some of the money we have saved for the project, but when you are looking at over 2 million dollars for the project, the \$15,000 is pretty small in scope. Berry wasn't sure if going forward with the rate studies and the ordinance had to go hand in hand. She will discuss this with the engineer also. The council will wait to adopt the ordinance until some of these questions can be answered.

Police Report: The written report was reviewed.

Golf Report: Trevor Morris reported that the clubhouse has been winterized and so has the irrigation system.

Public Works: Morris had to fix a residential water service last weekend where a section of the meter literally exploded. He has been winterizing and Randy Sperr helped him take down hanging baskets. He has also been working on leaf removal.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Statement of Goals and Needs: no comments; **Liquor Licenses:** Several liquor licenses are up for renewal and the OLCC notifies the city so they can let the licensees know if the city is imposing a charge. She said in the past we have not charged our own businesses, but do charge for temporary permits except for those granted to Echo businesses. The council will continue with the same policy. **Annexation Application:** The annexation application goes with the Annexation code passed last month, but this document is adopted separately so it is easier to amend. It is based on Hermiston's application. Gayle Yoder moved and Karl Jensen seconded the motion to approve the annexation application Vote: all ayes;

Old Business: Jensen asked where the sewer project was sitting. Berry said that the engineer is arranging to have a One Stop meeting with potential state and federal funding agencies to see what funding they have available.

Adjournment: Harris moved and Gaunt seconded the motion to adjourn. Vote: All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. Vote: all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Eujeana Hampton/Mayor

Attest:

Diane Berry/City Administrator-Rec.